

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 GENEVA 04585 241844Z

61

ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ADP-00 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-10

RSC-01 COA-02 EB-11 OIC-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

ACDA-19 AEC-11 AGR-20 CG-00 DOTE-00 FMC-04 INT-08

JUSE-00 NSF-04 OMB-01 TRSE-00 RSR-01 /239 W

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C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 4585

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, UN

SUBJ: LOS: CONFERENCE WITH TRUST TERRITORY REPRESENTATIVES

1. THE CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE U.S. DELEGATION MET WITH SENATOR KABUA AND REP NAKAYAMA OF THE TRUST TERRITORY ON AUG. 23. THE SENATOR AND REP SPEAKING FOR THE MICRONESIANS INDICATED THEIR PRINCIPAL CONCERN WAS TO BE ABLE TO PRESENT THEIR VIEWS AT THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE. HOWEVER, THEY WERE HOPEFUL THAT THEIR POSITION WOULD BE SUCH THAT THE UNITED STATES COULD SUPPORT IT. MR. STEVENSON REVIEWED BRIEFLY THE DIFFICULTIES FOR THE UNITED STATES IN APPLYING THE ARCHIPELAGIC CONCEPT TO THE VAST AREAS OF OCEAN THAT WOULD BE ENCLOSED BY BASE LINES CONNECTING THE MICRONESIAN ISLANDS. SENATOR KABUA STATED THAT THE MICRONESIANS HAD ALWAYS LOOKED UPON THESE WATERS HISTORICALLY AS THEIRS AND THE FACT THAT THERE WAS SUCH A SMALL RATIO OF LAND TO WATER WITHIN THE AREA REALLY EMPHASIZED THE NECESSITY FOR THE MICRONESIANS TO HAVE JURISDICTION OVER THE WATER IN VIEW OF THEIR LIMITED LAND RESOURCES. MR. STEVENSON INQUIRED AS TO WHETHER THE

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 GENEVA 04585 241844Z

MICRONESIANS WOULD CONSIDER NOT SUPPORTING THE APPLICATION

OF THE ARCHIPELAGIC CONCEPT TO THEIR ISLANDS IF THEIR ECONOMIC REQUIREMENTS WERE SATISFIED THROUGH THE EXTENSIVE ECONOMIC JURISDICTION WHICH WOULD PROBABLY BE GIVEN TO COASTAL STATES INCLUDING ISLANDS BY THE CONFERENCE. SENATOR KABUA INDICATED THAT THEIR REAL CONCERN WAS MUCH MORE WITH RESOURCE JURISDICTION AND THEY HAD NO REAL INTEREST IN INTERFERING WITH TRANSIT THROUGH THE ISLANDS AS LONG AS IT DID NOT THREATEN THEM AND THAT A 200 MILE ECONOMIC JURISDICTION ZONE WOULD IN EFFECT GIVE THEM ECONOMIC JURISDICTION OVER ALL THE AREA WITHIN THE ARCHIPELAGO. HE INDICATED AT THE PRESENT TIME THE ONLY RESOURCES WITH WHICH THEY ARE CONCERNED IS TUNA. THEY AS YET DO NOT HAVE CAPACITY TO ACTCH A VERY LARGE AMOUNT OF THE TUNA IN THEIR WATERS WHICH THEY ASSERT ARE NOT HIGHLY MIGRATORY BUT HOPE TO DEVELOP THIS CAPACITY. THEIR VIEW IS THAT THE SKIPJACK TUNA IN THEIR AREA ARE NOT HIGHLY MIGRATORY THEY DO NOT SEE THE NECESSITY FOR REGULATION BY INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT BUT WOULD CERTAINLY BE PREPARED AND WANT TO PERMIT FOREIGN FISHING TO THE EXTENT THEY DO NOT HAVE THE CAPACITY TO DO SO THEMSELVES. THEY WOULD ONLY BE SATISFIED WITH INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT PROVIDING THEY RECEIVED A PREFERENCE BASED ON THEIR CAPACITY AS WELL AS SOME BENEFIT FROM OTHERS FISHING IN THE AREA AND THEY INDICATED SKEPTICISM AS TO WHETHER THEIR INTERESTS WOULD REALLY BE PROTECTED BY INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT. THEY GAVE CLEARLY THE IMPRESSION THAT THEY MIGHT BE WILLING TO CONSIDER GIVING UP THE ARCHIPELAGIC CONCEPT IF THEIR ECONOMIC INTERESTS WERE OTHERWISE SATISFIED. HOWEVER, THIS MAY HAVE BEEN MERELY POLITENESS ON THE PART OF SENATOR KABUA WHO EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THEIR POSITION DID NOT EMBARRASS THE UNITED STATES. THEIR LAWYER, MR. RAMP, INDICATED THEY WERE DEVELOPING AN ANTHROPOLOGICAL STUDY SHOWING THAT THE MICRONESIANS HAD TRADITIONALLY REGARDED THESE WATERS AS THEIRS AND THAT THEY WOULD WISH TO COMPLETE THIS STUDY BEFORE AGAIN MEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE LAW OF THE SEA TASK FORCE. THEY WOULD LIKE TO HAVE SOME REPRESENTATIVE OR REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TASK FORCE COME TO MICRONESIA BUT WOULD ALSO WISH TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET AGAIN WITH THE WHOLE TASK FORCE. IT WAS AGREED THAT PROBABLY THE BEST ARRANGEMENT WOULD BE FOR A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE TASK FORCE TO GO TO MICRONESIA SOMETIME THIS FALL AND LATER HAVE THE

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PAGE 03 GENEVA 04585 241844Z

MICRONESIAN REPRESENTATIVES RETURN TO WASHINGTON TO MEET WITH THE EXECUTIVE GROUP OF THE TASK FORCE.

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